

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:686
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2007
INCREASE IN THE DEPTH OF INDIAN PORTS
Rawale Shri Mohan

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the depth of Indian Ports is not enough to handle larger vessels;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith efforts made by the Government to increase the depth of the existing ports, port-wise;
- (c) whether Shipping Corporation of India, Mumbai Port Trust, Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust and Cochin Shipyard have come together to form an alliance with the aim of encouraging research and development activities in the dredging sector; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) & (b): Depending on the depths available in the entrance channels and berths and the availability of equipment, vessels of various sizes are handled at Indian ports. It is the endeavour of the Government to develop the necessary port infrastructure for attracting and handling large size vessels, keeping in view the demands of maritime trade, as part of the overall development of ports. Dredging for deepening of ports is undertaken by the Major Ports from time to time to keep pace with the draft requirements of vessels calling and expected to call at these ports in future. Under the National Maritime Development Programme, a total of 25 projects for deepening of channels, berths, etc. in the Major Ports have been identified to be taken up for implementation for a period upto 2011-12.

Non-Major Ports are under the overall jurisdiction of the respective State Governments in whom the responsibility for their development vests.

(c) & (d): In order to enhance the domestic dredging capability Shipping Corporation of India, Mumbai Port Trust, Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust & Cochin Shipyard Ltd. are exploring the possibility of forming an alliance.